

PRESS RELEASE

February 20, 2003

RE: UNITED STATES v. MARK T. CORDNER

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today that Mark T. Cordner, age 30, of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, pled guilty before Hon. William M. Skretny, United States District Judge, to a felony Indictment charging him with attempted bank fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344, carrying a maximum penalty of 30 years imprisonment, a fine of \$1,000,000, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney William J. Gillmeister, who handled the case, stated that defendant Cordner tried to negotiate more than \$16 million worth of counterfeit checks through an account at Key Bank, in Buffalo, New York in May of 2001. The defendant was arrested by United States Secret Service agents as he tried to wire more than \$16 million of the proceeds of the counterfeit checks to an account in Europe. Key Bank suffered no loss.

The guilty plea was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the United States Secret Service, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Timothy Koerner.

Sentencing is scheduled for May 29, 2003, at 9:00 a.m. in front of Hon. William M. Skretny, United States District Judge.